

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

COMMENCEMENT LUNCH 2014: BRIEF REPORT



For the 2014 Commencement celebrations, in addition to the traditional group photo session at the University Cultural Centre (UCC), the Political Science Department hosted an informal lunch party for graduates and their parents. The event was organized by the Department's administrative team as Prof Hussin Mutalib, who was also the departmental alumni representative, was away on sabbatical leave. The event took place shortly after the Commencement ceremony at UCC. The venue was the lobby of the Alice Lee Plaza in NUS Museum, both indoors and outdoors. It was a very convenient location for our guests since it was beside the UCC.

The event was carefully planned and executed by the administrative team. For example, we brightened the staircase from the 2nd floor leading to the party area on the 1st with festive lights. To entertain early arrivals, as well as to set a casual mood for the occasion, we invited guests to pose for playful shots at our *Instant Photo Booth*, with fanciful props provided by the vendor. Those who did were given sets of photos as a memento. To add to the festive mood, we also had colourful balloon bouquets strategically placed from the 2nd floor entrance of the Museum right down to the party area. We also hired an ice cream vendor to add on the joyful ambience. This was over and above the delightful array of halal international catering that was provided for our guests.

Our Head, Assoc Prof Luke O'Sullivan, provided a brief welcome address, followed immediately by lunch. After lunch, we invited graduates to say a few informal words about their undergraduate and graduate experiences. Besides expressing their gratitude to the

Department for organizing the event, the speakers spoke warmly of their fellow students, their lecturers and tutors, and their experiences as Political Science majors and graduate students at NUS.

We estimate that about 180 people attended the lunch party. Considering that this was the Department's second effort of this kind, the event went very well. It was warmly received and everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously. Our office staff, many of whom were also on duty at UCC, and graduate student helpers performed outstandingly well throughout the day. Our MC was our 2nd year PhD student, Mr Hamoon Khelghat-Doost, who performed his duties very well. The photographer was our 2nd year PhD student, Mr Peter Finn, who not only took the photos, but did the video too.

